

UDIA Tribal Leaders Report

August 11, 2006

Governor Huntsman visits Navajo Nation

Governor Huntsman visited Navajo Nation and spoke to the Navajo Nation Council on Monday, July 17th, in Window Rock, marking what is believed to be a first for a Utah Governor. Our Division participated in this historic event and were pleased to have been able to contribute. The Governor also visited President Shirley, the Attorney General and the Supreme Court. Governor Huntsman spoke about building better relationships between the tribes and the government and said he plans to focus on his efforts in education.



Native American Summit

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. and Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert are sponsoring the Native American Summit, Wednesday and Thursday, August 30th and 31st, at Sherwood Hills resort, in Wellsville, Utah. Governor Huntsman will address tribal leaders. Larry Eckohawk, law professor at BYU Law School and former Attorney General for the State of Idaho, will be the guest speaker. The two day summit will begin with Tribal Caucuses at 1:00 pm followed by a reception at 7:00 pm., on Wednesday, August 30. The following day will feature two panel discussions, on jurisdiction and economic development. Breakout sessions will follow focusing on the areas of: education, infrastructure, emergency management/law enforcement, and health-care.

You are cordially invited to attend the 2006

Native American Summit

Presented by

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

&

Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert

August 30, 2006 1:00 pm - August 31, 2006 5:00 pm

Sherwood Hills Resort 7877 S. Highway 89-91 Wellsville, UT 84339

Please RSVP to the Lieutenant Governor's Office at (801) 538-1522 or the Division of Indian Affairs at (801) 538-8808

Hotel Contact information:

Please try to reserve your room by August 21, 2006

Sherwood Hills Resort
7877 S. Highway 89-91 Wellsville, UT 84339
1-800-532-5066

Ramada Limited
2002 S. US Hwy. 89-91 Logan, UT 84321
1-435-787-2060

Crystal Inn
853 S. US Hwy. 89-91 Logan UT 84321
1-435-752-0707

Native American Remains Review Committee

The Native American Remains Review Committee met on August 7th at the State History Building. The meeting was very eventful and began with a blessing on the 117 sets of remains currently housed within the Antiquities Section of State History. Leland Pubagee performed the blessing. This was followed by a tour of the laboratory where artifacts are cleaned and preserved. The meeting discussed the Attorney General's informal opinion in regards to the state NAGPRA statute. The Attorney General's office suggests revisions this legislative session, as the statute is unclear. The next NARRC meeting is scheduled for the first week of September where this issue will be more thoroughly discussed. SITLA's Kenny Wintch reported on some remains that are no longer buried safely in the ground and asked for the committee's blessing to exhume and repatriate them. The committee recommended that Mr. Wintch contact the White Mesa Ute Tribe to get information about a possible ceremony when the remains are unearthed.

Range Creek Exhibit

The Museum of Natural History opens a new exhibit on the Fremont and Range Creek Canyon Saturday, August 12th, 2006. The exhibit includes interactive aspects for visitors in pottery, mapping and tree-ring dating, and is designed to be interesting to all ages. It also features discussions in pottery and basket-making, as well as storytelling for children. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.



AARP Volunteers needed

AARP Utah is looking for unique individuals to participate on the state volunteer Executive Council for Utah. The Executive Council, led by a volunteer state president, is a strategic planning advisory body that assists the state staff in shaping programs and resources. AARP is engaged in many of the critical issues facing elderly Americans, such as Medicaid preservation, Social Security, Medicare, and health care reform. Specifically in Utah their current efforts include, utility rate intervention, consumer protection and financial security issues, promotion of physical and mental fitness, and senior mobility and transportation. Contact Gail Goodwin at 801 233-2064 or by email at rence@aarp.org.

BIA no longer a part of Navajo business leases

After an 11-month legal review by the U.S. Interior Department, the BIA was removed from the Navajo business site leasing process in July. Navajo Nation is no longer required to seek federal approval to develop lands or abide by federal appraisals, which can take years. The revised regulations give chapter governments authority to issue their own business site leases, which empowers local communities to identify land and to plan for economic growth and development. The next step in the process is for the BIA to turn over its paperwork to Navajo Nation's Division of Economic Development, so Navajo Nation's appraisers can get to work on the 31 businesses that were awaiting federal approval.

Pelt et al. v. UTAH

An important ruling occurred against the state on July 5, 2006. Judge Tena Campbell decided that the State of Utah must account for trust fund money that it gave to Utah Navajo Development Council (UNDC) and Utah Navajo Industries (UNI). The state asked to appeal the decision to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and it was granted. The appeal will take at least one year to be resolved. While that appeal is pending, the trial court will continue to consider other parts of the Pelt case, such as how the state must account for money spent by UNDC/UNI and whether the state must show that the trust received all income due.

Utah Tribal Education Directors Meeting

On August 10, 2006, the Division of Indian Affairs hosted a meeting of Utah Tribal Education Directors to discuss issues in common. The directors heard a report from Richard Gomez, Equity Specialist, Utah State Office of Education. Bizworld representatives, Trisha Wrigley and Rebecca Hoffman, reported on their business education program aimed at teaching children and teenagers important basic financial skills. Marilyn Hetzel, Ute Tribe Education Director, reported on the most recent meeting of the National Indian Education Association, attended by Cameron Cuch, Ute representative NIEA board member.

Emergency Management Meeting

On June 20, 2006, one of the first statewide tribal emergency management meetings was hosted by the Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and the Division of Indian Affairs. Representatives of the Confederate Tribes of Goshute Reservations, Navajo Nation, Ute Tribe, and state officials were present. A State/Tribal Emergency Response Committee was formed to collaborate and share information relative to tribal emergency responses throughout the state. This Committee will meet every third Thursday each month. It's first priority will be to secure satellite telephones to improve communications. Other projects and initiatives are in process.

Division of Housing/Weatherization and Navajo Nation

During the week of June 19-23, two hundred ninety seven volunteers from twelve states joined together with the Division of Housing & Community Development, Group Workcamps Foundation, the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments and the Utah Weatherization Assistance Program to rehabilitate the homes of 49 elderly and low-income residents at Navajo Mountain. This year eighteen different organizations formed a unique partnership to make essential housing repairs to Utah's most needy residents. In all, over 12,000 hours of volunteer labor were contributed plus materials, financial support, facilities and other varied resources. During the course of the week, 118 different projects were completed on the 48 homes including: wheel-chair ramps constructed, home exteriors were painted, drywall projects completed, porches, decks and steps were built, and home interiors were painted to name just a few.



Certiport and UVSC help Navajo Nation

Certiport, UVSC, and Navajo Nation will install interactive internet technology in 550 computers (paid for by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) in Navajo community centers (chapters) in Utah and Arizona. Individuals then will be able to develop computer skills that eventually will enable them to earn their high school diplomas on line. After graduation they will be able to enroll in UVSC's distance learning college courses. The effort has the support of Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., and organizers foresee approaching lawmakers for help in funding the initiative. Certiport is a computer based training company that provides assessment and certification services to students.

Utah State Office of Education Report

All nineteen Utah LEAs have successfully met the Federal Maintenance of Effort requirement and are eligible to receive their Title VII grant awards.